

2017

19 August 2017, Saturday

This is a *Lasius niger* queen I captured during the 2017 mating flights. I placed her in a test tube on 8 Jul 17, 6 weeks ago. She laid eggs within a few days, which are developing nicely. I have fed her, which I don't normally do during this phase, hence her swollen abdomen, which you can see in the video on my [YouTube channel](#).

1 September 2017, Friday

The queen now has a few small cocoons present, and I expect them to eclose (hatch) within the next 7-14 days. Once that happens I will keep an eye on their growth and move them to a normal ant farm in due course. The queen is looking healthy and she should raise a successful colony. I've been feeding her ant jelly once a week, so she and her larvae have had an advantage over her wild sisters. I wonder how many more of her winged sisters from her parent nest have gone on to successfully create a new colony.

4 September 2017, Monday

On Saturday, I just happened to glance at the test tube housing this new queen, and thought I saw some movement behind her. On further investigation I was excited to see that her first worker has emerged. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ9441HYz6c>